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Charlotte, NC 28210-7726**

January 18, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I have closely followed the federal government's antitrust case against Microsoft for a long time. Microsoft is not a monopoly, but competitors who cannot compete with Microsoft in this highly innovative market have attacked them aggressively. This settlement is fair and will give the computer/software industry the boost it greatly needs.

I feel Microsoft is improving its business practices by allowing competitors and partnering software developers access to some of the Windows operating system source code. It also agreed to not retaliate against software or hardware developers who develop or promote software that competes with Windows or that runs on software that competes with Windows.

Microsoft must be permitted to implement these new business practices. Far too much time and resources have been spent proving Microsoft is operating as a monopoly. It's time to put an end to Big Brother is watching, and let Microsoft get back to business with the settlement terms.

Sincerely,



John Gilbert